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General and complete disarmament: preventing the risk of radiological terrorism

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

Preventing the acquisition by terrorists of radioactive materials and sources

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the essential contribution of radioactive materials and sources to social and economic development, and the benefits drawn from their use for all States,

Recognizing also the determination of the international community to combat terrorism, as evident in relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions,

Deeply concerned by the threat of terrorism and the risk that terrorists may acquire, traffic in or use radioactive materials or sources in radiological dispersion devices,

Recalling the importance of international conventions aiming at preventing and suppressing such a risk, in particular the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, adopted on 13 April 2005,[1]

Noting that actions of the international community to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and prevent access by non-State actors to weapons of mass destruction and related material, in particular Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) of 28 April 2004, all constitute major contributions to the protection against nuclear and radiological terrorism,

Stressing the importance of the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in promoting and reinforcing the safety and security of radioactive materials and

* Reissued for technical reasons.

[1] Resolution 59/290, annex.

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sources, in particular by supporting the improvement of national legal and regulatory infrastructure and by establishing technical guidance,

Taking note of the importance of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management[2] with respect to the safety of the end of life of radioactive sources,

Taking note also of the importance of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources[3] as a valuable instrument for enhancing the safety and security of radioactive sources, while recognizing that the Code is not a legally binding instrument, and of the International Atomic Energy Agency Revised Action Plan for the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources[4] and its Nuclear Security Plan for 2006-2009,[5]

Taking note further of resolutions GC(51)/RES/11 including preambular paragraph (l) of section B, and GC(51)/RES/12, adopted by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its fifty-first regular session, which address measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation and transport safety and waste management and measures to protect against nuclear and radiological terrorism,

Welcoming the ongoing individual and collective efforts of Member States to take into account in their deliberations the dangers posed by the lack or insufficiency of control over radioactive materials and sources, and recognizing the need for States to take more effective measures to strengthen those controls in accordance with their national legal authorities and legislation and consistent with international law,

Welcoming also the fact that Member States have undertaken multilateral actions to address this issue, as reflected in General Assembly resolution 61/8 of 30 October 2006,

Welcoming further the contribution of the International Atomic Energy Agency International Conference on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources: Towards a Global System for the Continuous Control of Sources throughout Their Life Cycle, held in Bordeaux, France, from 27 June to 1 July 2005, to the activities of the Agency on these issues,

Mindful of the urgent need for addressing, within the United Nations framework and through international cooperation, this rising concern for international security,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to support international efforts to prevent the acquisition and use by terrorists of radioactive materials and sources, and, if necessary, suppress such acts, in accordance with their national legal authorities and legislation and consistent with international law;

2. *Urges* Member States to take and strengthen national measures, as appropriate, to prevent the acquisition and use by terrorists of radioactive materials

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[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2153, No. 37605.

[3] International Atomic Energy Agency, *Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources* (IAEA/CODEOC/2004).

[4] GOV/2001/29-GC(45)/12, attachment.

[5] See GC(49)/17.

and sources, as well as terrorist attacks on nuclear plants and facilities which would result in radioactive releases, and, if necessary, suppress such acts, in particular by taking effective measures to account for, secure and physically protect such materials and sources in accordance with their international obligations;

3. *Recalls* that Member States have the obligation to develop and maintain effective border controls, noting that such systems would contribute to the detection of the illicit trafficking in radioactive materials and sources, and encourages Member States to extend such detection to additional appropriate locations inside their territory;

4. *Welcomes* the entry into force, on 7 July 2007 of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism[1] and invites all Member States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify this instrument as soon as possible;

5. *Invites* Member States, in particular those producing and distributing radioactive sources, to support and endorse the efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency to enhance the safety of radioactive sources, as described in GC(51)/RES/11 of the Agency's General Conference, and to enhance the security of radioactive sources as described in the Agency's Nuclear Security Plan for 2006-2009,[5] urges all States to work towards following the guidance contained in the Agency's Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources,[3] including, as appropriate, the guidance on the import and export of radioactive sources, noting that the guidance is supplementary to the Code, and encourages Member States to notify the Director General of the Agency of their intention to do so pursuant to resolution GC(48)/RES/10 of the General Conference of the Agency;[6]

6. *Recognizes* the value of information exchange on national approaches to controlling radioactive sources and takes note of the endorsement by the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors of a proposal for a formalized process for a voluntary periodic exchange on information and lessons learned and for the evaluation of progress made by States towards implementing the provisions of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources;[5]

7. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by Member States, under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency or of international partnerships, whose activities usefully complement the Agency's actions to search for, locate and secure unsecured and/or uncontrolled sources ("orphan radioactive sources");

8. *Encourages* cooperation among and between Member States and through relevant international and, where appropriate, regional organizations as well as international partnerships and initiatives for strengthening national capacities in this regard;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session an item entitled "Preventing the acquisition by terrorists of radioactive materials and sources".

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[6] Ibid., *Forty-eighth Regular Session, 20-24 September 2004* (GC(48)/RES/DEC(2004)).